Minutes of the October 25 Meeting

I. President DiBiasio called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

II. The invocation was given by Tena Roepke.

III. Minutes from the Sept 27 meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None

V. President DiBiasio recognized the recipients of this year's endowed chairs: David Mikesell (Mechanical Engineering); David Savino (Business Administration); Mark Dixon (Philosophy); William Theisen (Physics); Jake Zimmerman (Chemistry); Laurie Bell (Theater/Comm Arts); Mihai Caragiu (Math); David Smith (HPJ); Jon Smalley (Engineering); John Estell (Computer Science); Michael Loughlin (HPJ); Robert Carrothers (Sociology)

VI. Questions for the President:
   a. President DiBiasio announced that he has authorized searches for a number of new positions in hopes of getting an early start in the process.
   b. The President also announced that an advertisement for the position of Financial Affairs VP, with institutional profile, has been posted in the Chronicle of Higher Ed and on-line.
   c. Representatives of Maguire & Assoc. have given their report on a financial aid/admissions model. There will be further consulting, with a desire for a second or third opinion.
   d. The President reported that the October meeting of the Board of Trustees had been positive.
   e. President DiBiasio held his first Coffeehouse with students this week. Among other things, the students learned that the President does not have a tattoo, nor has he ever considered getting one.
   f. Pat Croskery asked for the President's take on the issue of faculty morale. President DiBiasio stressed that this was indeed a major concern, one, which for him, is bound up with trust and with issues of economic welfare. The latter will be addressed; in meeting with the Personnel Committee he made salary & compensation a high priority. Dr. Croskery followed up with a question about morale in light of the program review and workload issues; the President responded that these have yet to be dealt with.
   g. John Lomax asked about the 30% reduction in University contributions to retirement; he has felt the effect of this more than the lack of a raise; in fact, it's made him "gloomy". The President responded, in light of the need to maintain a positive balance in the budget, questions of salary and total compensation will be addressed. This is a priority for him, but he is making no promises.
   h. Sarah Waters asked whether ONU should increase advertising in local & regional markets in order to attract students. The President answered that we already do advertising, and that Dr. Lesick, the new VP of Enrollment Management, will be analyzing the role of advertising. The faculty are invited to contribute their ideas.
i. Bill Theisen pointed out that departments have been asked to compile "wish lists" of items which might be realized with funds from the Capital Campaign. Will there be an announcement about where such funds go? The President responded that announcements will be made after completion of the Campaign, and pointed out that the Campaign includes "directed dollars" for capital projects, etc., as well as bequest gifts (obviously not immediately available). Decisions on "wish list" items will be informed by the Strategic Plan.

j. Lisa Robeson thanked the President for the above-mentioned timely decisions on position searches.

---

VII. Report from University Council: Sherry Young reported on the October Trustees Meeting. Her overall assessment of the meetings is quite encouraging: a) compensation issues are a high priority among the trustees, and b) the Program Review is being treated primarily as a means of marshalling resources in order to improve conditions and enable the University to move forward based on its strengths. There is also support for the tenure system.

VIII. Reports from Constitutional Committees:

a. Budget and Appropriations: Ron Beaschler reported that the committee will meet on Monday, Oct 31.

b. Academic Affairs: John Lomax announced that the committee will meet in two weeks to deal with housekeeping issues regarding Final Exam scheduling, as well as with the granting of credit for returning students and transfers.

c. Student Affairs: Jenny Walton reported that the committee will be taking up approval of student organizations; six have come through Student Senate at this point.

d. Personnel: Kay Zekany affirmed that the meeting referred to by the President was very open and beneficial; the committee is looking forward to working further with the Administration. The deadline to submit sabbatical requests is Nov. 1.

IX. Reports from Operational Committees:

a. Athletic Events: Tom Simmons reported that the committee held its compliancy meeting with the NCAA.

b. Cultural Events: no report

c. International Affairs: Julie Hurtig announced that the committee will meet on Oct. 26 to plan the international affairs week (coming in November). She was pleased to report the presence on campus of over 100 degree-seeking international students. In total, international students number approximately 180.

d. Religious Affairs: no report

e. Information Technology: no report

X. New Business: None.

XI. Announcements:

a. Jay Mager announced that the lecture by two ethnobotanists from Ethiopia, Dr. Nigist Asfaw and Dr. Sebsebe Demissew, who will be visiting the ONU campus this week. Their plenary talk will be held on Oct. 26 at 7 PM in the Freed Center. The President applauded Jay's ability to pronounce the speakers' names.

b. Russ Crawford announced a department of HPJ debate on Senate Bill 5 (Issue 2) to be held on
Nov. 1 at 7PM in the Moot Courtroom, with participants on both sides.
b. Julie Hurtig happily announced that the E-portfolio is ready. Soon there will be a URL link off the Luminis page. She is willing to train us; the question is how? The consensus seems to be that she put out a PDF document, and we let her know if there are problems. We can also contact the company behind this, Taskstream, with problems that aren't specific to ONU. Assessment should be done of only one quarter of the submissions, since we have to do it ourselves, and there is no funding for support.
i. Druann Bauer asked if the one quarter mentioned above is a random choice we can make - Julie: Yes, anyway you care to do it.
ii. John Lomax asked if we can see who has submitted. - Julie: Yes, in an envelope labeled "submitted".
iii. Forrest Clingerman asked if there's a deadline. - Julie: No, but doing it before the end of the semester will make the whole thing easier. She suggested setting a deadline for one's students.
iv. Rob Waters asked if we have to do anything with the 3/4 of submissions not chosen. - Julie: No, but check quickly to make sure that no one has submitted a "recipe for mac & cheese".
v. Lomax returned, asking if there's a link to the full image of the artifact. - Julie: Yes.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Submitted by

Jim Walter